



August 10, 2016

Presidential Primary Retention Deadline Today

Sixty days following certification of the Presidential Primary, County Auditors must remove the political party designation from voter records ([WAC 434-219-330](#)). If you have not already done so, please **remove the records today**. For more details, see the "Records Retention" section of Advisory 10, [Completing the Election](#).

Finalizing the Primary | August 16

On August 16, the same day your Canvassing Board certifies, please email all certification documents to ctsupport@sos.wa.gov:

1. PDF of your certification and cumulative report with overvote, undervote, and write-in totals
2. Tally of individual write-in names for multi-county single-candidate legislative races
3. Excel format (not a PDF) of your [Reconciliation Form](#)
4. An explanation of any discrepancies
5. A certification contact person & direct phone number

Here's a checklist to help you [Finalize the Primary](#). Our office has 3 days to certify—thank you for working with us on this tight deadline!

Ready to Tally?

If you have a **single-candidate partisan race** (think Commissioner, PUD) on your ballot, then it's likely your county needs to tally write-in votes. Give yourself time before certification to analyze write-ins, group the name variations (including misspellings), and see if there's a candidate who reached the 1% threshold. If the

candidate is one of the top two vote-getters, your Canvassing Board must certify the candidate in its official results.

State Measures, Presidential Candidates, Oh My!

As you start to lay out your General Election ballots, here are some things to know:

- Nine state measures qualified for the ballot - 4 Initiatives to the People, 2 Initiatives to the Legislature, 2 Advisory Votes, and 1 Constitutional Amendment. All have been entered into the WEI. As soon as we receive all the translations, we will certify the list to you, separate from candidate certification. Ballot order of measures should be according to [RCW 29A.72.290](#):
 1. Initiatives to the People
 2. Initiatives to the Legislature
 3. Advisory Votes
 4. Proposed Constitutional Amendments
- In addition to the Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates, five minor party candidates qualified for the ballot: Socialist Workers Party, Green Party, Socialism & Liberation Party, Constitution Party, and Libertarian Party. The qualified candidates are in correct ballot order on the WEI. The American Delta Party nomination was rejected for not submitting all the required documents. This minor party has the option to challenge our rejection, consequently we do not know when we will certify the Presidential candidates.
- Certification of all other candidates will occur at the end of the day on Friday, August 19. We will send the certification to all counties before we go home that day.
- We will send notification of recounts involving multi-county races after certification. The Secretary of State is required to conduct county special reviews for any recount involving a state race.

Disability Rights Washington Report: Voting Access in Jails | DAC Agenda Item for August 18

Some of you have received a report from Disability Rights Washington (DRW) regarding voting access for people with disabilities in jail who have not lost their right to vote. DRW would like an opportunity to share their concerns at our quarterly Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting on Thursday, August 18 at 10:00 am. I've invited James McMahan the policy director for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and Monty Cobb the policy director for the Washington Association of County Officials to join our meeting as well.

The meeting will be at our [Elections Division](#) in Olympia, WA. Please notify [Marlene White](#) if you would like to attend. She can also provide call in information

EAC Statement on Election Security Preparedness

The Election Assistance Commission released a statement on August 5th regarding elections security preparedness. The statement discusses the EAC's past work in certifying voting systems and encourages voters to get involved in the election process. You can read the statement [here](#).

Welcome Shannon Cortez!

Please join me in welcoming our new Deputy Director of Elections, Shannon Cortez. She will officially join the OSOS team on Monday, August 15. Shannon comes to us with 18 years elections experience, both in Pierce County and most recently as the Deputy Director in King County.

I personally worked with Shannon for over 13 years. During that time, I watched her passion for elections administration grow. She learned the work from the ground up, starting in voter registration and customer service. She quickly moved up and was responsible for designing the voters' pamphlet, then ballots, and eventually supervising the Pierce County Elections team. Most recently she's filled the role of Deputy Director in King County Elections. We are so lucky to benefit from all of her years of experience and leadership as we work collectively to continue to improve Washington State Elections.

Shannon is excited (as you can see from her photo below) about the opportunity to continue her elections career here. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Shannon! You'll be able to reach Shannon beginning Monday at 360-902-4169 or shannon.cortez@sos.wa.gov.



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